

REMARKS

Claims 40-43 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has rejected Claims 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,966,671 (Mitchell) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,529,713 (Seymour), and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,873,317 (Griffin), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,323 (Tso).

Please amend Claim 40 as set forth herein. No new matter has been added.

Mitchell discloses a radiotelephone having an auxiliary actuator and method for operating said radiotelephone; Seymour discloses a handset; Griffin discloses a hand-held electronic device with a keyboard optimized for use with the thumbs; and, Tso discloses a button-key/cylindrical-key alphabetizer.

Regarding the rejection under §103(a) of independent Claim 40, the Examiner states that Mitchell in view of Seymour, and further in view of Griffin, and further in view of Tso renders the claim unpatentable.

Mitchell discloses a multifunction rocker switch for enabling a user to move toward the left, right and the center, and Seymour discloses a mobile phone handset for user to enable to wear it on the wrist. However, it is believed that the combination of Mitchell and Seymour could not derive the operation of inputting a digit/character as defined by the claims of the present application.

Tso discloses five multiple input keys, and the corresponding characters are placed in the respective multiple input keys. When a multiple input key is input from among the five multiple input keys, the characters placed in the multiple input key are displayed, and the desired character is selected during the highlighting of the selected character according to the rotation of the key from the displayed characters.

As stated above, Tso discloses the operation for selecting the desired character according to

the rotational operation of the key from the displayed characters. On the contrary, the claims of the present application provide an operation for selecting at least one of the digits/characters from the displayed digit/character set while sliding a protrusion in the up/down direction or the left/right direction in a state of displaying at least one of the digits/characters by using a multi-function key having the protrusion which is slid in the up/down direction or the left/right direction, and is enabled to be pressed in the perpendicular direction.

Accordingly, even though Tso discloses the operation for selecting a character by the rotational operation of the key, Tso does not disclose the technical feature of the claims of the present application for selecting a desired digit/character by sliding the protrusion in the up/down direction or the left/right direction.

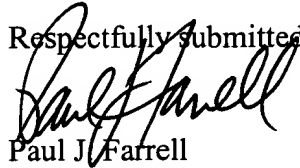
Seymour relates to a method for writing a message by utilizing a keyboard and a thumb-wheel, and transmitting the message. However, Seymour does not provide the technical feature of the claims of the present application for displaying the digits/characters enabled to be input by using at least one of the signal generated by inputting /sliding a multi-function key, inputting at least one digit/character by moving a cursor on at least one digit/character, and selecting at least one digit/character from all the displayed numbers/characters.

Based on at least the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection under §103(a) of independent Claim 40 is respectfully requested.

Without conceding patentability per se of dependent Claims 41-43, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 41-43 are believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on Claim 40.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 40-43, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", is written over the typed name.

Paul J. Farrell

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